

Edition 1: November 2000

#### EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of the ACRS electronic newsletter, Reef Briefs. At the last Council meeting, given the difficulty in recruiting a new editor able to fill the shoes of Dave Wachenfeld, it was decided to trial a different format for your Society newsletter. We hope to produce an electronic newsletter quarterly, which will provide fresh news and updates of interest to members, with a hard copy Annual Report providing more formal material such as accounts of meetings and longer reports.

We are looking for contributions on forthcoming events, short news items (particularly those linked to a website), and useful information such as changes of contact details of members etc. Your inaugural newsletter editors are Vicki Harriott, Ove Hoegh-Guldberg and David Wachenfeld (contact details below). We hope a less formal newsletter will encourage members to submit short items that can be circulated more quickly than previously. We welcome your feed-back and submissions for the next newsletter, due for February 2001.

#### COUNCIL CONTACTS FOR 2000-2001

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#### INTERCONNECTIVITY PROJECT

Members have received with their last newsletter a copy of the interconnectivity poster produced by Russell Kelley and sponsored by ACRS. The poster has been broadly distributed and has received a tremendous response. It has been distributed at the Australian Science Show, and as part of the GBRMPA Representative Areas Program public

education program, and has been promoted by "Tropical Topics" published

by the EPA, the Australian Museum, Reef HQ, and was displayed at the Bali conference. The ABC Science On-line has offered to produce a website based on the poster's concepts and artwork. This has been an extraordinarily successful project and ACRS council thanks Russell for his considerable efforts and energy. ACRS will be seeking funding to support similar projects in the future.

#### ISRS BALI CONFERENCE

The biggest news of October was the ISRS conference in Bali, where the ACRS was very well-represented. The major themes of the meeting were the degradation of coral reefs internationally as a result of human activities, and the linkages between global warming, coral bleaching and climate change. Working out where to be at any one time was a major challenge with 14 concurrent sessions and around 1500 participants. The only significant grumbles seemed to be the price of beer around the conference venue (though cheap beer was just a taxi-ride away) and an unfortunately large number of cancelled talks. Excellent plenary sessions were presented by ACRS members David Bellwood, Carden Wallace and Charlie Veron. Congratulations to Dave, Carden and Charlie! The next ISRS conference in 2004 was awarded to Okinawa, Japan, which competed with Curacao and Bahamas for the privilege. Conference papers are to be produced by January 2001, with instructions available shortly on the Conference website at [www.nova.edu/ocean/9icrs/](http://www.nova.edu/ocean/9icrs/)

#### CORAL REEFS AND COP6 IN THE HAGUE

The next round of negotiations associated with the sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP6) will take place from Nov 11-24 in the Hague (Netherlands). It is expected that coral reefs will be a centrepiece to many of the negotiations due to the strong evidence now that climate change has severe implications for the world's coral reefs. The conclusions of the Bali symposium and the release of the "Status of the Worlds Coral Reefs: 2000" document by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network are likely reinforce to reinforce this message. The disturbing news from the latter that the thermal events of 1997-98 resulted in a loss of 19% of the world's living coral cover will add further emphasis to calls for real action on climate change. Ove Hoegh -Guldberg will be attending as an observer.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

A special meeting of the ACRS was held in Bali during the recent ISRS meeting to approve some changes to the Society constitution. These changes involved removing the category of membership called associate membership, which is not used, and to enable elections for Council by e-mail. The changes were carried by the meeting unanimously. . Thanks to the many members who gave up part of their evening to attend.

#### ACRS STUDENT AWARDS FOR 2001- APPLICATIONS DUE 8TH DECEMBER.

Information on Student Awards has previously been posted on the ACRS list, and will be summarised here. ACRS normally supports the research of up to four students by the provision of Student Grants. The best proposals received will be awarded the Terry Walker Prize of \$2500 and the Danielle Simmons Prize of \$2500. The remaining two research grants of \$2000, are to be used for laboratory and/or field studies relevant to Australian coral reefs.

Any student who is enrolled at an Australian university on the 1st January 2000 and working towards a PhD or MSc on a topic involving research on Australian coral reefs is eligible to apply. Recipients must be a financial member of the society before applying for these awards.

For more information on selection criteria, please contact:

Dr Pat Hutchings  
The Australian Museum  
6, College Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000

Closing date is Friday 8th December 2000. The successful applicant will be notified by late January 2001. No late applications will be considered.

#### ACRS CONFERENCE 2001

Despite reports in the last AMSA bulletin, final dates and location for the ACRS conference in 2001 have yet to be fixed. ACRS Council is considering a proposal to hold the meeting at Magnetic Island before or after the AMSA conference in Townsville on 4-8 July. The alternative is to hold the meeting later in the year at great Keppel Island. Final decision should be reported in the next newsletter. Feedback can go to chair of the conference organising committee, Selina Ward.

#### CRC REEF NEWS

It has been a busy 6 months for the CRC Reef. Research Centre. There has been a large turn-over in staff with the result that there is pretty much a new team in place over the last 2 years. Changes this year are Russell Reichelt, formerly Director of AIMS, who replaced Simon Woodley as CEO in June; Vicki Harriott, formerly of Southern Cross University, who started as Program Leader, Education and Communication in February 2000; in September 2000 Bryony Barnett, most recent with the Representative Areas Program at GBRMPA, started as Extension Manager, and Louise Goggin, began as Communication Coordinator. Louise who worked at Lizard Island on her PhD, worked with CSIRO, before training as a science communicator.

On 28th- 29th September 2000, the CRC Reef held its Research Days, which provide an opportunity for researchers and students to present results to an audience of other researchers and representatives from industry and management. Around 100 people attended over the two days, in which most participants were impressed with the depth and quality of the research presented. For more information, contact Vicki Harriott (vicki.harriott@jcu.edu.au).

#### CRC Reef Grey Literature (1999-2000)

Arnold, P.W. & Birtles, R.A. (1999) Towards sustainable management of the developing dwarf minke whale tourism industry in northern Queensland. CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report No. 27, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, 30 pp.

De'ath, G. (1999) New statistical methods for modelling species-environment relationships. PhD Thesis, Department of Tropical Environment Studies & Geography, James Cook University, 150 pp.

Engelhardt, U., Hartcher, M., Cruise, J., Engelhardt, D., Russell, M.,

- Taylor, N., Thomas, G., & Wiseman, D. (1999) Fine-scale surveys of Crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster Planci*) in the central Great Barrier Reef region. CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report No. 30, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, 97 pp.
- Green, D., Moscardo, G., Greenwood, T., Pearce, P., Arthur, M., Clark, A., & Woods, B. (1999) Understanding Public Perceptions of the Great Barrier Reef and its Management. CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report No. 29, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, 64 pp.
- Jones, A., Mapstone, B.D., & Davies, C.R. (2000) Report on the Effects of Line Fishing Project: Management Strategy Evaluation. 1st Stakeholder Workshop, December 1999, 29 pp.
- King, B., McAllister, F., & Done, T. (2000) Modelling the impact of the Burdekin, Herbert, Tully and Johnstone River Plumes on the Central Great Barrier Reef. Final Report to the CRC Reef Research Centre from Asia-Pacific Applied Science Associates and the Australian Institute of Marine Science, June 2000.
- Lough, J.M., Barnes, D.J., Devereux, M.J., Tobin, B.J., & Tobin, S. (1999) Variability in growth characteristics of massive Porites on the Great Barrier Reef. CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report No. 28, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, 95 pp.
- Mapstone, B.D., Davies, C.R., Slade, S.J., Jones, A., Kane, K.J., & Williams, A.J. (2000) Effects of live fish trading and targeting spawning aggregations on fleet dynamics, catch characteristics, and resource exploitation by the Queensland commercial demersal reef line fishery. Report to Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. Project No. 96/138, 80 pp.
- McAllister, F., King, B., & Done, T. (2000) The database of predicted river plume distributions (1966-1998) in the Central Great Barrier Reef Marine Park - CD ROM and Web Page. Report to the CRC Reef Research Centre from Asia-Pacific Applied Science Associates and the Australian Institute of Marine Science, June 2000.
- Nakaya, S. (1999) Understanding behaviour, motivations and attitudes of spearfishers on the Great Barrier Reef through the multidimensional specialisation concept. PhD Thesis, Department of Tropical Environment Studies & Geography, James Cook University, May 1999, 219 pp.
- Oemcke, D.J. (1999) Investigation of options for the treatment and management of ships' ballast water. PhD Thesis, School of Engineering (Civil & Environmental), James Cook University, January 1999, 261 pp.
- Orpin, A.R. (1999) Sediment transport, partitioning, and unmixing relationships in the mixed terrigenous-carbonate system of the Great Barrier Reef, Burdekin shelf sector, Australia. PhD Thesis, School of Earth Sciences, October 1999, 75 pp.
- Samoilys, M.A. & Roelofs, A. (2000) Defining the reproductive biology of a large serranid, *Plectropomus leopardus*. CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report No. 31, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, 36 pp.
- White, J.C. (1999) Investigation into the feasibility of constructing coral viewing platforms on tourist pontoons. Masters Thesis, Department of Tropical Environment Studies & Geography, James Cook University, February 1999, 137 pp.

## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### 2000 Conferences

6th to 8th December. science business fusion. A 3-day seminar and workshop designed for scientists wishing to enhance their interactions with business. At CRC Reef, Townsville. Contact Brett Kettle (brett.kettle@babel-sbf.com.au) or Vicki Hall ( vicki.hall@jcu.edu.au), or on the website [www.reef.crc.org.au/](http://www.reef.crc.org.au/)

### 2001 Conferences

24-27 April, 2001, International Congress on Marine Science and Technology, Spain. Conference program, call for papers and registration details at [www.formar.or](http://www.formar.or)

4-6 July. AMSA national conference, in conjunction with the New Zealand Marine Science Society. Townsville. Information: Graham Jones, James Cook University ( [graham.jones@jcu.edu.au](mailto:graham.jones@jcu.edu.au))

18-23 August 2001, International Conference on Photosynthesis, Brisbane. Contact Tony Larkum email: [alark@bio.usyd.edu.au](mailto:alark@bio.usyd.edu.au) or conference questionnaire: [www.botany.uq.edu.au/ps2001](http://www.botany.uq.edu.au/ps2001)

21-25 October. Joint meeting: 7th International Conference on Coelenterate Biology (ICCB) and Annual European Meeting of the International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS). Eilat, Israel. Secretariat: Email- [team4@congress.co.il](mailto:team4@congress.co.il); website: [www.congress.co.il](http://www.congress.co.il).